



LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021

Time: 6:30 PM -8:30 PM

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Notice to the Public on meeting privacy In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Commissioners Andy Robinson (Co-Chair), Lisa Krinsky (Co-Chair), Julia Forsythe, Keith March Mistler, Susan Ryan-Vollmar, Helene Newberg, Molly Gillis, Kari Sasportas

Liaisons: Christina Coleman, DEI Admin; Len Diggins, Select Board; Marci Shapiro-Ide, Council on Aging; Rob Lorino, Robbins & Fox Library, Chief Julie Flaherty, Arlington Police Department

Guests: Terry Holt

Absent: Brooks Harrelson

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm. SRV assigned as minute-taker.

1. Remote participation statement and guidelines read by AR.
2. Welcome and introductions (include your pronouns if you want to)
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. KMM moved to approve consent agenda, SRV seconded, passed unanimously.
4. Liaison Updates

- a. Select Board: unanimously voted positive action on the domestic partnership warrant article.
- b. Council on Aging:
 - i. Marci noted that 24 people attended the recent SAGE Table event with 20 staying for the full event until 8pm.
 - ii. Two members of the Arlington High School GSA attended and 14 attendees elected to get their meals for the event from the Council on Aging. There are plans to host another dinner in November.
 - iii. Marci reports that the Tuesday group for LGBTQIA+ older adults is still going strong.
- c. Libraries:
 - i. Rob reported that it is challenging to get people to attend remote movie nights.
 - ii. Next meeting for the Queer Book Group: April 28th at 7pm
 - iii. The group is reading, "When They Call You A Terrorist," by Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Khan-Cullors.
 - iv. Rob reported that he is looking into planning a group to recommend podcasts to listen to.
- d. Police:
 - i. Chief Flaherty reports that the department's new policy on interacting with transgender and gender diverse members of the community has been finalized.
 - ii. Some officers had procedural questions regarding the recommendation that transgender people should be permitted to request the gender of an officer questioning them as there are only six female members of the force, so that might be problematic if a female officer is not available
 - iii. Chief Flaherty also reported that the police department would be engaging with the community to do a clean-up of Mugar Woods on April 24 from 8am to 12pm.
 - iv. AR reported on his involvement with the Police Chief's Advisory Committee. He said that the Chief had given members of the committee an update on the Arlington Police Department's involvement in a controversy reported on Facebook about a resident who was reported to police. The reporting party saw the woman take two packages off of two separate porches. The woman had previously arranged to take the packages via the "Everything Is Free" FB page in Arlington. The woman has since complained about the way the investigating officer interacted with her.
 - v. The Chief said that the department is investigating.
 - vi. Len Diggins asked the Chief if body cameras would have been helpful in this situation, and the chief agreed.
 - vii. SRV gave an update on the Police Civilian Advisory Board Study Committee and said that the committee was discussing what problem in Arlington is the committee trying to solve

- e. DEI:
 - i. Christina reported that the Town was participating in YW Boston's Stand Against Racism campaign throughout the month of April. The purpose of the campaign is to spread awareness and inspire action to eliminate racism. The town's Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion division provided departments with YW curated content, resources, and the support needed to be able to hold conversations with staff focused on race.
- 5. Working Group Updates
 - a. Pride Discussion
 - i. AR discussed painting the rainbow across the Mass Ave crosswalk in front of Town Hall. Chief Flaherty said that the police department would be happy to facilitate. Guest Terry Holt said that it might be fun for members of school DIGS groups to paint messages of hope outside of schools for Pride.
 - ii. Marci suggested that the Council on Aging could host a drive by swag giveaway in the circular drive of the Council on Aging. KMM mentioned having drag queens and drag kings stand on corner in Arlington Center. Potential swag items include: Rainbow Pride face masks with the RC logo, and temporary tattoos. AR asked SRV about when she would have the press release finalized about RCs decision to boycott Pride. SRV said it was on her list of things to do. AR asked about getting AHS GSA to participate in Pride activities. SRV said she would update the Pride Proclamation for Select Board approval.
 - b. Public Education
 - i. KMM and MG met with Dr. Roderick MacNeil of AHS. He wants to create a task force/working group on LGBTQIA+ issues in Arlington Public Schools. A DEI Director for the schools is being hired; this person will look at training, curriculum, and updating sex-ed curriculum.
 - ii. KMM and MG report that they are meeting with Dr. MacNeil again in May.
 - c. Pride Banner Update
 - i. AR reports that there are 16 Pride banners. Last year's banners will be updated with the new logo. Banners will be hung on light posts in Arlington Center sometime in June.
- 6. Envision Arlington Survey Results.
 - a. LK suggests working with town to standardize language explaining why sexual orientation/gender identity data are being collected. LK suggests it would be a teachable moment for town staff to educate them on why the town should collect SOGI data in all surveys, questionnaires, etc.
- 7. Equality Act Endorsement
 - a. LK asks if RC can endorse legislation. SRV says she does not think RC can, but RC can engage in public education around why passage of the Equality Act would be a good thing. LK and AR say it would be good to share news about Equality Act on social media and include it in the next newsletter.

8. Public Engagement & Open Commentary

- a. TH asks if there is anything RC can do to publicize and/or response to the state of anti-transgender legislation being filed in state houses across the country. KS suggests writing a white paper about the damage of these laws. SRV suggests social media posts and sharing good work taking place in APS to offset negative news.

8:18pm: AR moved to adjourn meeting, KMM seconds, meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: May 20, 2021, 6:30 pm, Remote Participation

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact Jillian Harvey, jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.